Christmas Rush Begins in Earnest Schools Close To-Morrow for Ten Days.

STUDENTS HOMEWARD BOUND

Street Bonfires Will Be Allowed by Police Under Usual Restrictions.

Christmas shopping began in earnest yesterday morning, the opening of the

yesterday morning, the opening of the stores marking the beginning of a continuous four-day rush, which will end at midnight Thursday, when Sania Claus will have filled his bag, store-keepers and clerks be driven almost to distraction, and their stock pulled into hopeless confusion.

To-morrow will be the last day of school, the public schools in Richmond, as well as private schools and the colleges, closing after to-morrow's sex, slon, to reopen on January 4th. During the holidays extensive repairs will be made to several of the schoolhouses, the pian being to rebuild the front towers and staircases of Leigh and Bellevue Schools entirely, these buildings having recently been condemned by Inspector Beck. Fire-escapes will be added at many establishments, and a steam heating plant introduced at her

he added at many establishments, and a steam heating plant introduced at Baker School, colored, now heated by stoves, and believed to be dangerous. To-merrow afternoon will mark the beginning of the home-coming rush, trains on Wednesday and Thursday being crowded to their utmost capacity with school and college students going home for the holidays, while traveling and business men are hurrying back to spend the Christmas season with their famillies.

Regulate Boufires.

In no city is more claborate prepara-tion made for public and private char-ity at Carlstmas time than in Rich-mond, when all unite in seeing that the ity at Christmas time than in Richmond, when all unite in seeing that the poor and unfortunate receive something of the joy of life to lighten the hurden of their winter anxiety. Observed largely as a home-coming festival, when the school children and members of the family gather, Christmas is the greatest of the festival sessions of the year in Richmond, the time for the giving of remembrances for good cheer and good fellowship. For the small boy it is a glimpse of Paradise, for even the city-bred chind, henmed into the limitations of paved Streets, knows the joys of fireworks and bonfires. The satisfactory agreement reached last year between Chief Werner and his boy friends throughout the city will be continued. The ordinance prohibiting fires in the streets will be suspended from midday on Thursday until Saturday, provided the boys will agree not to build fires on the smooth-paved streets, nor against the curbstones, which may chip off and be damaged by the heat. The boys must see that their fires are out when they leave. Last year his treaty was faithfully observed, and many a policeman on his weary round on Christmas night, far from his own seeme and family, was the guest of a Christmas night, far from his own home and family, was the guest of a band of youngsters about a bonfire as he warmed himself in the genial

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Many People Come in From Nearby Counties to See Santa Claus.

All the hotels in the city did a good business yesterday and last night, and the managers expressed the belief that many of the men and women who are registered from the nearly counties came here to meet Santa Claus, and to close up contracts with him for goods to be delivered next Friday. The situation around the local hotels has seen dull for the past week or ten days, and the pull up in business yesterday brought glad smiles to the faces of those in charge. Outside of those who come to shop, the pilgrimage to Elehmond on the part of the rural contingent is never very heavy just prior to the holidays. Boxes and bundles were sent from stores in the shopping districts to the various hotels in great numbers last night, and this was a physical demonstration that Santa Clausiwas doing much business among the country people who are in the city.

WITH SHOPPERS Special Xmas Values in

Pianos

Stieff's Annual Sale to continue UNTIL CHRISTMAS. We will offer a big discount from the regular price on every Piano in our store, both in the celebrated Stieff and the other high-grade makes which we handle.

For Over Half a Century the Artistic





THE STIEFF is 😉 enjoyed in MORE Southern homes than ANY other Piano.

Why not join the army of pleased patrons that are being made happy each day by purchasing a Piano from this time-honored firm, which is one of the oldest in the history of America's Piano industry, and one which has won its big and well-deserved reputation for the high quality of its product, together with its unquestionable and honorable dealing with the public for over half a century.

Special values in used Pianos traded

in as part payment on the STIEFF.

One Steinway One Hardman

Full Size Upright

One Full-Size Upright Walnut Case

GoodSquarePianos and Organs from

as new. Call and see them before buying, or write to us regarding them.

We invite you to call and inspect our complete stock of instruments, which is one of the largest and finest in the South.

If you live out of the city, write to us. Special attention given to "out-of-town" correspondence.

Policy County Person.

Policy County Cases

ph. Villiams Stat on to Grass

And They as No. 8 Shall be considered to the county of the county o

night in special session to take action on the sale of city property to the Manchester Woodworking Company. The company desires to buy the land upon which its buildings are situated, and which its buildings are situated, and which it is at present leasing from the city. The matter has passed the Assembly and was recommended favorably to the Board. It will probably be concurred in. The meeting will be held at 7:30 P. M. No other business will be transacted.

Death of Mrs. Ray.

Mrs. Elizabeth Ray died early yesteraday morning at the residence of her son-in-law, Robert B. Jewett, No. 1107 Semmes Street, after an illness of aweek. She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. R. B. Jewett; one son, Mr. George W. Ray, and by four grandchidren. The funeral will take place from the above residence at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

The Eucational Association will meet to-night in the High School building. Important business will come up and a large attendance is expected.

Prof. Kramer J. Hoke, who is at present in Europe, will return the first of January, and will take up his duties as principal of the High School at the beginning of the winter term.

The Corporation Court met yesterday for the December term. Only chancery cases are on the docket, the regular common law term being set for January.

common law term being set for January.

The Buildings and Land Committee will hold a special meeting to-night.

Pat Bowen, charged with stealing two bunches of fish from Schwartz's grocery store, was discharged in the Police Court yesterday morning. Mr. Schwartz withdrew the warrant.

Alec Jones (colored), charged with being drunk and disorderly, was assessed \$2.50 and costs by Mayor Maurice yesterday morning.

Mrs. H. C. Baker, of No. 514 Cowarline Avenue, is improving after an illness of some weeks.

William T. Dance, of Chester, and Miss Alma May Dowdy, of this city, were married Saturday evening in the Methodist parsonage at Chester.

Anderson L. Ball, an ordinary bum from Detroit, Mich., was caught trespassing on the property of Gill Brothers yesterday afternoon and arrested by Captain Lipscomb.

NEW VIRGINIA CONCERNS

ctc.

5688—Evans-Brown Company, Incorporated, Bristol. C. M. Brown, president; H. M. Whitehead, vice-president; J. L. Evans, secretary and treasurer—all of Bristol. Capital—Maximum, \$25,000; minimum, \$15,000. Object—Mercantile business.

all of Bristol. Capital—Maximum. 3000: minimum, \$15,000. Object.—Mercantile business.

The Parkwood Apartment House Company, Incorporated, Alexandria. S. W. Woodward, president; E. S. Barker, treasurer; B. W. Parker, secretary—all of Washington, D. C. Capital—Maximum, \$100,000; minimum, \$25,000. Object.—Build an apartment house.

G. & R. Barrett, Incorporated, Norfolk, R. H. Barrett, president; H. A. Hutchins, first vice-president; A. W. A. Insworth, secretary—all of Portis—mouth. Capital—Maximum, \$100,000; minimum, \$100,000. Object—Wallows, and treasurer; S. W. Pitts, secretary—all of Alexandria. Capital—Maximum, \$100,000; minimum, \$100,000. Object—Coal and tumber business.

5691—Harrowgate Country Home, Incorporated, Richmond, T. J. King, president; G. A. Hanson, vice-president; G. A. Hanson, vice-president; E. N. Newman, secretary and treasurer—all of Richmond. Capital—maximum, 350,000. minimum, \$5,000. Object—Real estate improvements, etc.

R. L. CHRISTIAN & CO.

Xmas Offerings!

Make this Christmas a better one than you've ever enjoyed. special preparations enable us to offer the finest of Holiday Groceries, Wines, Liquors, Cigars, Nuts, Confections, Cakes, etc., we've ever had. Don't delay your order! Come in now. 'Twill do you good just to look around our big store. Come in.

Xmas Cigars

Here's joy for the smoker

Distributors of

Pendas y Alvarez "Websters," Park & Tilford's "Mi Favoritas," R. A. Bachia y Co, and La Re-galita's Clear Havana Cigars, Packed in boxes of 25, 50 and 100, from \$4.00 to \$35.00 per 100.

Huyler's Candies

Complete assortment of Huy-ler's Confections, in boxes and baskets. Elegant fancy baskets, filled with the choicest and best sweet-tooth dainties, from \$2.0 to \$10. Boxes containing one-half to five pounds at the regular Huy-ler price.

Huntley & Palmer's English Crackers

We have just received a fresh importation of these famous Bis-cuits, including many new varie-tiles. Also, decorated tins, espe-cially designed for the holidays, filled with different Fancy Bis-

Strawberries, Weisbaden Prunes, Apricots, Limes, Pineapples, Cher-ries, Violets and Hose Leaves, Absolutely the best goods on the market.

Fruits in Glass

Brandled or Pickled Peaches, Pears, Figs, Cherries and Mar-rons. Fresh Whole Peaches, Pears, White or Red Cherries, Figs, and Mixed Fruits. Maras-chino Figs, Red or White Cher-ries and Mixed Fruits.

Our stock of Holiday Nuts this year is the best we've ever bought. We were fortunate enough to purchase a quantity of fine Louislana Soft Shell Pecans, extra large—perhaps the only lot of the kind on sale now in Richmond.

A Most Acceptable Xmas Gift

We pay especial attention to supplying and shipping Xmas orders, and a selection from our elaborate stock of good things to eat and drink will never fall to please.

Home-Made Mincemeat, Fruit Cake and Plum Pudding

We've made special prepara-tions in this line and are ready to fill your orders promptly and with the best goods of the kind made.

Fancy Fruits

Finest Malaga Raisins, in decorated cartons, also Stuffed Figs and Dates, Bishop's Glace Prunes stuffed with wainuts, Apricots and Ginger, in one, two and five-pound decorated boxes. Protoben and Layer Figs, in three, five and ten-pound boxes.

Maiaga Grapes, Genuine Winesap and Pippin Apples, Indian River Oranges, Tangerines and Grape Fruit of the finest quality.

Holiday Liquors

Our selection of Wines and Liquors embraces everything that's fit to drink. We do not handle inferior liquors. All our goods are the best that can be produced for the money.

Virginia Mountain, Gibson and Highspire Straight and Blended Whiskles, French, California and Apple Brandles, Jamaica and Apple Brandles, Jamaica and Moselle Wines, Ports, Sherries, Clarets, Sauternes and Burgundles, all brands of Domestic and Imported Champagnes, Scotch and Imported Champagnes, Scotch and Irish Whiskles, Cusinier and Fockink Cordials.

Write for Complete Illustrated Catalogue.

R. L. Christian &

QUALITY ALWAYS FIRST.

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Out-of-Town Orders Shipped Same Day Received. Freight Prepaid on Orders of \$5.00 and Over.

was from England, and complained that he could not get justice in this country. 'Squire Lewis did not like his tone of voice, so instead of sharing alike with his brothers in misfortune, he was handed security of \$100 for six months, in addition to the regular fine, with the promise of one year if there was any more back talk. There was no more back talk.

performance of the public service.

Son Ill at School.

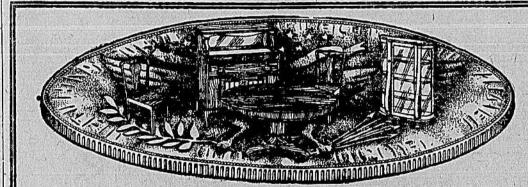
Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Sydnor, of 1828
Grove Avenue, were informed yesterday of the serious illness of their son, Robert Sydnor, a student at Dublin Institute.

Building Permits.

folk. R. H. Barráti, president; H. A. Hutchins, first vice-president; A. W. Hutchins, first vice-president; A. W. A. Shandan and the promise of color one year if the promise of cone year if the promise of color one year if the promise of cone year if the promise of the year was any more back talk. There was no was virginia Six More Years.

DECREASE IN EARNINGS

Tidewnier and Western's November, 1007. The promise of the State Perisons and Once November, 1007. The promise of the year is not year is nown in the year is not year is not year is not year is not year is



The Purchasing Power of a Dollar

Is greater here than elsewhere, for the simple reason that we operate EIGHT STORES IN VIRGINIA, and by buying in as large quantities as we do, we, of course, get prices that our competitors cannot get. A comparison of our prices with others will show you that we give our patrons the advantage of our savings in this respect. You will find many Handsome and Useful Articles here SUITABLE FOR GIFTS, as well as everything in

FURNITURE, FLOOR COVERINGS and STOVES. COLUMBIA and VICTOR GRAPHOPHONES and RECORDS at wholesale and

Jones Brothers & Company,

1418-1420 EAST MAIN STREET.

Open Every Evening This Week Until 9 o'Clock.